

LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

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January 17, 2007

House Human Services Committee
Representative Ron Stoker, Chairman

EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1-17-07
HB 148

Re: HB 148 (Representative Grinde)

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Melanie Reynolds and I am the Health Officer for Lewis and Clark County. The Lewis and Clark City- County Health Department would like to go on record in support of HB 148.

The purpose of pool inspections is disease and injury prevention. Ninety percent of all the cases of disease associated with recreational water use come from public swimming pools and water parks. It is a primary mission of public health to assure that conditions exist for people to use water venues safely. Disease from water venues can be prevented with education of pool operators, education of the public, and regular routine inspections. Appropriate pool safety measures can reduce the likelihood of accidental death or injury at public pool facilities.

Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department employs sanitarians certified in pool operations. Pool owners know the inspectors and they know the local facilities. People can call the health department and talk to an expert who is familiar with the pool in question. The public may have concerns regarding life safety issues such as water clarity that can receive immediate attention by the sanitarians.

The number of pools to inspect in Lewis and Clark County tripled between 1995 and 2005. License fees for pool operators cover less than one-third of the cost of providing high quality pool safety inspections locally. We don't anticipate continuing to be able to subsidize pool safety to the detriment of other public health services. If this local health department is unable to continue, DPHHS must do the inspections. Of course the DPHHS inspectors have much wider area of responsibility than just one county, so pool owners and the public will not get the same level of local service.

We urge your support of this important legislation.

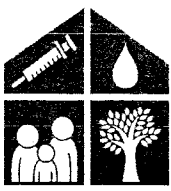


LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY
Health Department

"To Improve and Protect the Health of all Lewis and Clark County Residents."

Caring for our Community

Cooperative
Health Center



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Public Health Impact Of Recreational Water

Appropriate pool safety measures can reduce the likelihood of accidental death or injury at public pool facilities. Adequate water quality can prevent the spread of communicable disease in our communities.

Life safety review during inspection includes:

- Review of CPR certifications and staffing to have someone on site who knows CPR
- Water clarity (ability to clearly see the bottom) can lead to missing someone who needs help at the bottom of a pool.
- Entrapment and suction hazards such as loose drains that can cause evisceration or drowning.
- Provision of rescue equipment at the poolside

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Surveillance for Waterborne Disease Outbreaks Associated with Recreational Water — United States, 2003–2004. In: Surveillance Summaries, December 22, 2006. MMWR 2006:55(SS12); 1-24.

- During 2003--2004, a total 62 Water Borne Disease Outbreaks associated with recreational water were reported by 26 states and Guam. Illness occurred in 2,698 persons, resulting in 58 hospitalizations and one death
- 69.4% of all reported waterborne disease outbreaks occurred at treated water venues, resulting in 2,446 cases of illness. This is 90.7% of all cases occurring from treated water.

Water Quality and Health Council summarizes the report in the January 12, 2007 article with the following conclusions:

With nearly 70% of the outbreaks occurred at treated water venues, the researchers also reported some common contributing factors of the recreational water outbreaks in the study's conclusion. These factors include:

- Low disinfectant levels
- Inadequate water quality monitoring
- Equipment breakdowns and lengthy detection times
- Inadequately trained aquatic staff
- Lack of public awareness of appropriate healthy swimming behaviors

All of these factors can be addressed by an adequately funded pool inspection program.

The following figures are from the CDC report. Primary diseases associated with outbreaks include:

- Shigellosis
- Norovirus
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Giardiasis
- Unidentified agents